

educational centre of the Empire." Lord Rosebery considers it "little short of a scandal that our own able and ambitious young men, eager to equip themselves with the most perfect technical training, should be compelled to resort to the universities of Germany or the United States." Why, then, should London, which is already overtaxed, and has much more yet to contribute to primary and secondary education, be called upon to pay for the upkeep of this great Imperial undertaking? Are our legislators so dead to the interests of the nation that they will refuse—if asked—to support such a scheme? or to find the much larger sum which will be required for the development of London University.

Lord Rosebery has agreed to act as the first chairman of the trustees. Presumably they will appoint a committee to advise and help them in drawing up and settling the scheme. It is to be hoped that they will use every endeavour to choose the right men, men who are thoroughly conversant with the needs of the nation, and who understand what technical education is.

The institute, if properly organised and equipped, will be a national gain, a national asset; if run on wrong lines a national loss. But with the magnificent institutes in Germany to adapt from, there is really no reason why it should not be a grand success. One thing, however, should not be forgotten, a splendid equipment without an equally good curriculum and organisation is almost valueless. It must also be remembered that the scheme does not touch the question of the provision for development required by the University of London.

The scheme outlined in Lord Rosebery's letter may, we hope, be taken as a sign that our great manufacturers are becoming aware of the national advantages to be derived from an alliance between science and industry. The meeting held at the Mansion House on Monday to inaugurate a memorial to the late Sir Henry Bessemer gave additional reason for the belief that an awakening is taking place. It was decided that a memorial should be established which should not only commemorate Bessemer's work, but also provide a means of carrying it on to further achievements. The proposals of the memorial committee, which were read at the meeting on Monday, include the provision of well-equipped mining and metallurgical laboratories, and scholarships for post-graduate study in London. In the words of the committee:—

The establishment of completely equipped metallurgical teaching and research works in London will form the first object of the memorial, for which the practical cooperation and financial aid of the industrial world is asked. The primary aim will be the thorough technical instruction of mining and metallurgical students. Metallurgical tests and research of all kinds, for which facilities are not available in Birmingham or Sheffield, will be carried out at these works, on a practical scale, by engineers and others. In this way advanced students will be afforded opportunities for the acquirement of practical knowledge and for original research which it would be difficult to obtain in any other way. The second object of the memorial will be a system of grants, in the form of scholarships, for post-graduate courses in specialised practical work in London and the great metallurgical centres.

In proposing the adoption of this form of memorial, Mr. Haldane said the work which was to be done in teaching by the Bessemer Foundation should form a part—an integral part—of the larger scheme for raising the nation's efficiency. He had reason to know that the King was fully cognisant of the details of the great scheme which was laid before the public in Lord Rosebery's letter, and that His Majesty had also been informed of the proposal to launch the

Bessemer memorial scheme in connection with and as an integral part of it.

The committee's proposals were adopted, and there is little doubt that the support which will be given to them will enable provision to be made for study and research in mining and metallurgy on a scale appropriate to Bessemer's great name, and to our responsibilities as a State. To maintain a leading position among the nations of the world, industrial methods must be developed in directions indicated by scientific research, and the recognition of this fact in the scheme for the proposed Charlottenburg Institute for London, and in that of the Bessemer Memorial Committee, will give satisfaction to all who are familiar with the developments due to the application of science to industry.

#### THE BRITISH ACADEMY.

THE first anniversary meeting of the British Academy was held last week. We have received no report, but we learn from the *Times* that the objects of the Academy, and the studies to be fostered by it, were described in the presidential address. In the course of this address, Lord Reay remarked:—

The Academy might be regarded as embodying the recognition on the part of England that she, too, at last recognised that history, philosophy, philology, and kindred studies call for the exercise of scientific acumen, and must take their place by the side of the sister sciences, the priestesses of nature's mysteries.

We are all anxious to extend the boundaries of knowledge by scientific study, and Lord Reay appears to have overlooked the fact that the Royal Society was founded for the purpose of promoting the progress of the subjects he mentions, among others. The first charter granted to the Royal Society in 1662 contains the following words:—

We have long and fully resolved with Ourselves to extend not only the boundaries of the Empire, but also the very arts and sciences. Therefore we look with favour upon all forms of learning, but with particular Grace we encourage philosophical studies, especially those which by actual experiments attempt either to shape out a new philosophy or to perfect the old.

The recognition of the value of the application of scientific principles to all inquiries is therefore as old as Charles II., and has not recently been discovered as Lord Reay seems to suggest.

Lord Reay remarked that it would be one of the first important duties of the Academy with the Royal Society to prepare a fitting welcome for the International Association of Academies when it meets in London next year at Whitsuntide, and to make that meeting a success. The following points from the address show some of the directions in which the Academy is to work:—

In history we have to deal with the mutual interaction of different civilisations, and to compare these civilisations. The task of the historian is very similar to that of the explorer of nature's laws. Our colleague, Prof. Bury, in his interesting inaugural lecture, has eloquently emphasised the application of strict scientific methods to the study of history, as the study of "all the manifestations of human activity." In the department of archæological exploration an understanding might be obtained through the International Association with regard to the spheres of scientific exploration which should be allotted to various nations, so as to arrive at a systematic distribution of archæological research in the vast domain open to the explorers of different nationalities. Many questions belonging

to economic science have to be studied. The scientific treatment of law has been neglected in England, and it will be our privilege to give encouragement to those who are striving to place the scientific study of law on a footing worthy of the great traditions of English jurisprudence. We shall approach the problems connected with education in a philosophical and historical spirit. Our charter imposes on us the duty of dealing with questions which embrace the whole range of the moral sciences. We have to deal with the problems of the mind. The complex agencies which constitute the motives of our actions are subjects of our investigation. The forces which influence individual energy are open to our analysis. To discover the principles which regulate the progress of human society, which eliminate the causes of friction, which facilitate the attainment of high ideals, all these inquiries come legitimately within the sphere of our operations. The unbiased attitude of the mind towards ethical and metaphysical problems is one of the conditions of our existence as a scientific body. The tendency of all scientific study is to become international and cosmopolitan. We may compare our Academy with a national clearing-house, and the International Association of Academies to an international clearing-house of ideas on these subjects.

#### NOTES.

THE names of a few men distinguished by their contributions to scientific knowledge are included in the list of birthday honours. Dr. W. D. Niven, F.R.S., has been promoted to the rank of Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (K.C.B.). Dr. David Morris, F.R.S., and Dr. Patrick Manson, F.R.S., have been promoted to the rank of Knight Commanders of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (K.C.M.G.). The honour of knighthood has been conferred upon Dr. P. H. Watson. Mr. F. W. Rudler has been appointed a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

THE Colombo correspondent of the *Times* reports that on a motion introduced in the Legislative Council on June 24, the Government of Ceylon agreed to invite the British Association to Colombo in 1907 or 1908.

DR. C. J. MARTIN, F.R.S., professor of physiology in the University of Melbourne, has been appointed director of the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine.

IN reply to a question asked in the House of Commons on Tuesday, it was announced that, in the first instance, the following six lightships are to be connected with shore stations by wireless telegraphy:—the East Goodwin, the South Goodwin, the Gull, the Tongue, the Sunk, and the Cross-Sand.

MANY friends of the late Sir William Roberts-Austen will be glad to know that it is proposed to erect a memorial in his honour in the Church of St. Martins, Blackheath, Womersley, where he resided for many years. The erection of the church was mainly due to his generous and devoted efforts, and he often said that the first things done to complete the building should be to line the east wall and the chancel arch with marble or alabaster. It is proposed that the memorial should include the carrying out of this work, and the erection of a memorial tablet or inscription in the church. Contributions for this purpose should be sent to Mr. H. W. Prescott, Brantynghay, Chilworth, Guildford.

M. ZYBIKOFF, a Buddhist Buriat of the Baikal region and a graduate of the University of St. Petersburg, has recently returned to Russia after a year's residence in the city of Lhasa. M. Zybikoff was able to travel in Tibet as a

Lama, and approached Central Tibet by way of the Boumza Mountain, where Przewalsky was turned back in 1879. He describes the city as one of not more than ten thousand inhabitants; the Uitchu River passes to the south, canals and dykes protecting the city itself from floods. The residence of the Dalai Lama is on Mount Buddha La, a mile from Lhasa. Near it is the ancient castle of Hodson Buddha La, a structure 1400 feet long and nine storeys high, containing the treasury, the mint, quarters for officials and monks, and a prison. The native traders are all women.

MRS. GARRETT ANDERSON, M.D., in a letter to the *Times*, directs attention to the work of the Imperial Vaccination League, which has now been in existence a year. The League, which has on several occasions been referred to in these columns, was formed to study the administration and working of the "Vaccination Act," 1898, and to promote vaccination, and especially revaccination, among the public. It is now desired to extend its sphere of work by assisting candidates at Parliamentary elections to meet the pressure brought to bear upon them by the opponents of vaccination. For this purpose Mrs. Anderson appeals for subscriptions, and desires to find 100 friends who will each contribute five guineas a year for three years. The League has done good work in the past, and it is to be hoped that this useful extension will receive support.

ATTENTION was directed in the House of Commons last week to the administration of the "Cruelty to Animals ('Vivisection') Act," 1876. The debate was more moderate in tone than some previous ones on the same subject, and had for its main object the imposition of more stringent inspection by the appointment of additional inspectors. Sir M. Foster and Dr. Hutchinson strongly deprecated the attacks on, and abuse of, the medical profession with regard to this question, and obtained a retraction from Mr. MacNeill. The Home Secretary, in his reply, defended the inspections as carried out by Dr. Thane, and pointed out that successive Home Secretaries had been among the severest critics of vivisection, and that his own control was exercised with the greatest care and full appreciation of his responsibility. It would be almost impossible to improve upon the administration of the Act, and he doubted whether the ability of the inspectors was sufficiently recognised or remunerated.

REUTER reports that a violent earthquake occurred at Erlau, Hungary, on the morning of June 26. Four shocks were felt. Several houses in the suburb of the town collapsed, and nearly all the buildings in the town were damaged.

THE arrangements for the International Fire Prevention Congress, convened by the British Fire Prevention Committee, have now been completed. The congress will be conducted in general and sectional meetings; there will be six sections, each of which will have its own honorary chairman and acting vice-president. The sections with their honorary chairmen will be as follows:—(1) Building construction and equipment, Privy Councillor J. Stubben; (2) electrical safeguards and fire alarms, Chevalier Goldoni; (3) storage of oils and spontaneous combustion, M. Louis Bonnier; (4) fire survey and fire patrols, Prince Alexander Lyoff; (5) fire losses and fire insurance, Mr. C. A. Hexamer; (6) fire tests and standardisation, M. Alcide Chaussé. All meetings, except the opening meeting, will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, and the whole of the executive arrangements will be in the hands of Mr. Edwin O.